



TASK FORCE LIBERTY ***Press Release***

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FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq – Cooperation. Intelligence. Targeting. Coordination. Missions. Security. The cycle of precision strikes picked up speed in mid-June as Iraqi army units and police agencies executed raids all over Task Force Liberty's area of operations, netting terrorist suspects, bomb-making materials, and illegal ordnance. Iraqi soldiers and police took the lead in the many of these operations, demonstrating initiative that is the hallmark of American warfighting, and a tribute to their Task Force Liberty trainers. However, these successes are owed in part to the Iraqi people, who are playing a greater role in their nation's advance by providing information and support to their security forces.

Iraqi Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Army Brigade of the 5th Division conducted raids which uncovered numerous rocket munitions. One raid was based on intelligence resources generated by the Iraqi forces, and a lead from an informant on site led to the launch point of a recent rocket attack on Forward Operating Base (FOB) Normandy. The unit's raid in Baqubah, part of Operation Mudahma, resulted in the arrest of several suspected terrorists and weapons. The unit's raid near Nowfil also led to the seizure of rocket munitions and bomb-making materials.

Acting on a tip from a concerned citizen, Iraqi soldiers apprehended a man transporting illegal drugs from Baghdad to Khan Bani Sa'ad June 7. The man told soldiers he was transporting the expired drugs to a pharmacy in the northern part of the town. Soldiers detained the pharmacist along with expired prescriptions.

Kirkuk citizens tipped off police and Task Force Liberty Soldiers to a weapons cache June 8. The police and Soldiers confiscated grenades, assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and small arms ammunition hidden in a house.



Iraqi soldiers, working with Jalula police and Coalition Forces, executed a knock and talk operation in Tenira June 6. The operation yielded information that led Iraqi soldiers and police to weapons caches hidden under several structures.

A civilian's tip led Task Force Liberty Soldiers to arrest seven terrorist suspects and seize seven large weapons caches. The 116th Brigade Combat Team Soldiers seized more than 300 mortar rounds, more than 200 rockets of various sizes, 100 cans of small arms ammunition, several 100-pound bombs and a drum full of rocket-propelled grenades.

These victories of the past two weeks are tempered by the loss of six Task Force Liberty Soldiers, including 42nd Infantry Division members Capt. Phillip Esposito and 1st Lt. Louis Allen, killed in an explosion on June 7. They were honored in memorial ceremonies on FOB Danger June 15.

Even as they mourned, Task Liberty Soldiers were assisting in the investigation which followed the death of the Soldiers. While we continue to honor our fallen comrades, our prayers and sympathies are with their families, and our faith and hopes rest with military justice and each other.

Breaking the Cycle of Violence

In the last two weeks, operations in the Task Force Liberty area of operations have resulted in an estimated 14 anti-Iraqi forces killed, 7 wounded, and an additional 362 detained. Significant ammunition seized included more than 888 rocket, mortar, artillery and tank rounds, 45 small arms weapons and grenades, 42,550 rounds of small arms ammunition, 48 mines, 15 rocket propelled grenade launchers, and 14 rocket propelled grenade rounds. Major equipment found included 52 gas masks, two sniper rifles, two anti-aircraft machine guns, 6,849 anti-aircraft rounds, 770 armor-piercing rounds, 229 assorted fuses, and 336 pounds of explosives. Task Force Liberty operations have also seized \$1,900 and 14,000 Iraqi Dinar. Within the division's area of responsibility, 50 IEDs were discovered prior to detonation, preventing the needless loss of life at the hands of anti-Iraqi forces.



1st Brigade Combat Team (Raider). With a newly-seated government in Baghdad and a new constitution planned, Iraqis in Salah Ad Din Province are resolving local governmental issues.

The Bayji City Council elected its new president, deputy president and secretary in a secret ballot June 14. The election was supervised by the chief magistrate of Bayji, Judge Dyab, and was overseen by two officials from the Salah Ad Din Provincial Government. The elections, which were witnessed by the mayor, various department heads and Coalition Forces, mark one of the first times the elected Bayji City Council has elected its leaders by secret ballot. Sheik Hamed Abdullah Hacim and Sheik Aziz Mizher remained President and Deputy President respectively, and Ghaeb Nafsoos was unanimously elected Secretary.

The City of Yethrib held elections to reconfigure its city council June 2. This election process ensured that all villages in the area have representation. The reconfiguration is in preparation for the ratification of the constitution and national elections.

The Iraqi army continues to assume its lead duties as Iraq's military defenders, while garnering respect from local citizens throughout Salah Ad Din.

Soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division fielded questions during a call-in show at the Tikrit Radio Station June 8. Several soldiers from the battalion spoke to callers, many of whom phoned in to thank them for their courageous efforts in the fight against the insurgents.

Soldiers of the brigade's 4th Battalion set up combined traffic control points (TCPs) along Highway 1 in Operation Tollbooth June 8. The enhanced TCPs incorporated increased security and specialized pursuit teams to prevent insurgents and those carrying contraband from evading the Iraqi Army. The soldiers searched for weapons, bomb-making materials and other contraband.

In Samarra, the Iraqi soldiers established a TCP to search vehicles for weapons and bomb-making materials June 9. The soldiers maintained the TCP for two hours. Iraqi soldiers then visited with shop owners and citizens of Al Hawaish to identify possible future projects in order to improve the quality of life.



The Hawaii Army National Guard's 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, with support from Company C, 29th Support Battalion conducted a Medical Assistance Visit in the village of Al Shihabi, near Balad, June 2. Al Shihabi residents gathered at Al Shihabi Secondary School to receive medical attention. Local Sheiks were present to ensure those that needed it saw a doctor. Donated items such as stuffed animals, clothes, shoes, and tooth brushes were distributed by the sheiks. A total of 120 Al Shihabi residents were examined and treated.

3rd Brigade Combat Team (Sledgehammer). To continue to build a sense of pride and hope for the people of Iraq, Iraqi soldiers and police have been busy hanging signs along checkpoints. Not only will the signs seek to inspire the people of the Muqdadiyah Qada, but it also further establishes that the Iraqi army and police are committed to creating hope for the area. Soldiers of the 3rd BCT assisted in the effort.

In Operation Iraqi Area Beautification, Iraqi soldiers picked up trash and cleaned around various check points in the area. This gives them a more professional appearance and promotes a cleaner Iraq. Maintaining these areas demonstrates the discipline the Iraqi army has instilled in its soldiers, while improving its image with the Iraqi people.

In Operation Gotham, Iraqi army units and 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor raided three houses in Hadid. The units detained eight suspects and confiscated spools of wire, CDs and DVDs, battery testers and electrical manuals. In operation Moby Dick, the units conducted a cordon and search of seven target areas in the southern part of Task Force Liberty's area of operation June 11. The search resulted in the capture of various weapons, improvised explosive device (IED) making materials and several identification cards. The next day, the units raided six houses in Septia. The targets were based on reports from the Iraqi citizens and the raid was planned by the battalion. The units confiscated several AK-47s, ammunition, cell phones and detained eight suspects.

116th Brigade Combat Team (Warrior). The 116th BCT continues to aid Iraqi officials in the provinces of Kirkuk and As Sulaymaniyah as they establish security, economic development, governance and communication in the region.



The past two weeks have seen progress in the training, equipping and operations of Iraqi security forces in the 116th BCT's area of operations. Iraqi military leaders of the 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division conducted a Command Post Exercise on June 14 so the brigade staff could practice their command and communications skills. The 1st Battalion, 148th Field Artillery conducted staff training for the 2nd and 3rd Iraqi Army Brigades over the last two weeks, including leadership techniques. The artillery Soldiers also helped secure an ammunition cache in Kirkuk.

The 2nd Battalion, 116th Armor conducted a knock and greet operation, uncovered a UXO cache, located a firing point, ordnance and caches of potential IED material, and detained twelve suspected terrorists. The Iraqi police in their area of operations executed security operations, detained criminal suspects, found a weapons cache and confiscated black market uniforms and accessories. The Iraqi army overcame a terrorist attack at one of their checkpoints.

The 3rd Battalion, 116th Armor continued base construction for the Iraqi army and answered an IED call. Iraqi police discovered a UXO.

Construction, agricultural and other economic activity continues vigorously in the 116th BCT's area of operations. The Sami Al Assi Medical Clinic opened, and a clinic opened in Bajawan.

The Kirkuk Provincial Council continues to work toward solutions for the province. The brigade staff attended a Hawija District council meeting which covered a variety of topics. The Taza City Council met to discuss city affairs and the Daquq sheiks held a meeting to resolve security issues. The 358th Civil Affairs Team announced the beginning of a water treatment plant project.

278th Regimental Combat Team (Volunteers). The 278th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) from the Tennessee Army National Guard is helping Iraqis improve their nation through the completion of local projects and training, and equipping their security forces.

The citizens of Qara Tapa, Iraq took a step toward a working judicial system recently. The project to renovate the local courthouse was completed, giving the city judges a secure place to administer the law.



The cities of Tuz and Sulayman Bak recognized the first specialized law enforcement team in the Tuz district on June 9. Members of the district's Emergency Response Teams (ERT) graduated in a ceremony at the Tuz Police station. Lt. Col. Frank McCauley, commander of the 2nd Squadron, 278th RCT and the district's Iraqi police chief presided over the graduation. Each member of the two teams, nicknamed Cobras, have been trained in advanced police techniques including weapons, entry procedures and proper search and seizure techniques. These will enhance local law enforcement's ability to handle the diverse criminal element in the district.

Aviation Brigade (Eagle). Task Force Eagle continues to soar as part of Task Force Liberty as it has continued to improve its operational posture in its support of the ground units throughout the 42nd Infantry Division area of operations. In addition to the routine reconnaissance, battlefield circulation, and escort missions, highlights of the past two weeks included escorting the US ambassador to Iraq, supporting the BCTs in Operations Forsyth Dragon II, Hurtgen Forest, and Bulldog Crazy.

Local spring time weather phenomena known as dust storms, sand storms, or shamals have been working against aviation operations these past few weeks as the winds circulate the fine, powder like dust into the atmosphere, reducing visibility dramatically and limiting helicopters flights.

Throughout Task Force Liberty's area of operation, the Apaches and Kiowa Warriors of the 42nd Aviation Brigade are mobile firepower. Flying over 1,000 hours this period, the ability of these assets to be anywhere on the battlefield, see a target undetected, and bring overwhelming firepower to eliminate it is exceptional. Working closely with the BCTs, 8th Battalion, 229th Attack Helicopter and 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry played key roles in the success of multiple operations, to include 3rd BCT's Operation Forsyth Dragon II and 116th BCT's Operation Tonowayah Ricochet. The guns of the brigade also assisted with escorting the US ambassador to a series of important meetings to assist the Iraqi government.

Both lift battalions, the New Jersey based 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation and the California based 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation flew more than 620 hours during this period. Besides flying the Task Force Liberty commander and staff, these units



transported several Morale Welfare and Recreation shows and a congressional delegation from the United States. In conjunction with 116th BCT, both units conducted an air assault mission as part of Operation Viper Vengeance. The swift mobility provided by these assets helped to assure the success of the first phase of this operation.

The 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, as always, continues to work around the clock to maintain the brigade's aircraft that are operating at an exceptionally high tempo.

Division Engineers (Detonator). Task Force Trailblazer of the 467th Engineer Battalion maintains mobility throughout Task Force Liberty's area of operations and ensures the safety of Soldiers and Iraqi motorists by finding and neutralizing IEDs and UXOs. Soldiers of the 793rd Engineer Detachment (Utility) and Company C, 983rd Engineer Battalion are improving Task Force Liberty's force protection measures and quality of life, to include plumbing and electrical upgrades. They are also working diligently to assist in the closing and transfer of various FOBs.

The Engineer Brigade is working with the Iraqi Ministers of Power, Buildings-Health & Education, Security & Justice, Transportation, and Oil to ensure the success of the reconstruction and rehabilitation of critical infrastructure facilities in the cities of Bayji, Kirkuk and As Sulaymaniyah. These 42nd Brigade Engineers will continue to operate across the area of operations to ensure complete mission success of the 42nd Infantry Division and Coalition Forces.

Division Support Command (Muleskinner). Division Support Command (DISCOM) is supporting the 42nd Infantry Division and its total operations. To accomplish this, DISCOM ensured its efforts were coordinated with the BCT's Forward Support Battalions by completing its monthly net calls and traveling to FOB Warhorse for the monthly Log Conference where issues, needs, and coordinating support are hammered out. The Division Material Management Center (DMMC) continues its support of the entire division in all classes of supply while fielding the DMMC Iraqi security forces cell that receives, inventories, and issues all equipment.



The DISCOM military transition teams have been fielded and moved to their locations to begin training the logistical needs of the growing Iraqi army and security forces. These teams will be involved in developing a base support unit and developing the training required with support, property accountability, and maintenance – an area the Iraqi's need assistance in, especially accountability. Once the military transition teams are trained, they will train the Iraqi support troops. The goal for this is mid-summer. At Speicher, the Iraqi security forces cell spends long days in the sun, working on Russian equipment and trucks to make them mission-capable prior to shipment.

The DISCOM movement-control officer and support-operations officer are supporting requirements throughout the area of operations, and smoothing road movement. Over the past two weeks, there have been a total of 356 convoy-logistic patrols, 87 transport-movement requests processed and 68 air movement requests processed. One aerial logistics mission was flown, moving supplies through the air rather than on the roadway.

During the past two weeks, the 50th Main Support Battalion (MSB) has logged a total of 668,100 miles over the dangerous Iraqi road network. This unit has run a total of 281 convoy-logistic patrols since opening operations, while supporting 801 missions. They provide the normal sustainment convoy-logistic patrols that some of the smaller FOBs depend on. They move security walls, predominately in the Tikrit area, where FOB Danger has been subjected to several attacks. This does not come without danger, and over the past two weeks, two heavy transports were struck by IEDs.

On a good note, Maj. Shivers, 50th MSB, through a concerted effort of doctors, performed surgery on an Iraqi girl with a large tumor. Shivers, who operates a private practice in New Jersey, has extended her tour from the normal 90 days to match the full deployment period of her unit.

Conclusion

Task Force Liberty and our Iraqi Security Force partners continue to help provide a safe and secure Iraq. We continue to work with the Iraqi Security Forces to neutralize the insurgency. We continue to train, coach and support the Iraqi Security Forces as they develop their own independent capabilities to defeat the insurgency and improve



the quality of life for the Iraqi people. We believe in the future of Iraq. To our families, friends, employers and the American people, Task Force Liberty thanks you for your steadfast support and encouragement.

Never Forget!

For more information on the 42nd Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty:

www.42id.army.mil